

ABSTRACT

5 A method and a system for automatically finding one
or more answers to a natural language question in a
computer stored natural language text database is
disclosed. The natural language text database has been
analyzed with respect to syntactic functions of
constituents, lexical meaning of word tokens and clause
boundaries, and the natural language question comprises a
10 question clause. A computer readable representation of
the question clause is analyzed with respect to syntactic
functions of its constituents and the lexical meaning of
its word tokens. In response to the analysis a set of
conditions for a clause in the natural language text
15 database to constitute an answer to the question clause
is defined. The conditions relate to the syntactic
functions of constituents and the lexical meaning of word
tokens in the clause. Furthermore, clauses that satisfy
said conditions are identified in the natural language
20 text database, and answers to the question clause is
returned by means of the identified clauses that matches
the conditions.

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